

26 August 1966

Steve:

Just a few quick ideas regarding your three points that you may wish to interweave with yours. I did not try to rewrite your piece nor dirty it up with comments. so I am dictating this to Judy. The following may serve as a sort of summary.

Definition (bottom of page 1 and top of page 2) should you use the word "Behavior" in defining behavioral sciences?

Behavior is a term for the way in which an organ, organism, organization or other type of system acts especially in response to a stimulus. Now, each of the traditional academic disciplines has been oriented toward the study of a particular, discrete class of behaving or acting systems, the biologist with living systems; the social scientist with social systems; the engineer with technical systems and so on. But in each case, there has been a growing interest not only in the action manifested by representatives of these classes of systems but also in the function and structures which receive, process and transmit the information inputs which result in the observed behavioral outputs. Furthermore, there is increasing recognition being given to the analogies by these processes and structures as those operated in different classes and systems. The so called behavioral sciences are the result of these two recent tendencies in the scientific community. In the (attached) "U.S. Journal of Behavioral Science", one finds the coalition of ideas from a variety of sciences toward the function of general theories of behavior and on empirical research specifically oriented toward such theories. This journal includes social science, genetics, economics, political science, biology, psychology, sociology, physiology, mathematics, education, etc. This alliance of hitherto "unfriendly" disciplines is facilitated by the above described "behavior" namely as the action resulting from the subordination of information by decision making structures in the biological politique in the man, in the factor, etc.

Obviously, this approach is distinguishable from the traditional social sciences which were concerned and in many cases are still concerned with the institutional structures rather than total systems and informational and actual contexts.

-2-

Section II - Areas of intelligence which might benefit from the application of the behavioral sciences and related technology. The assumed analogy between information reception, transmission, processing and storage functions in active systems of the various classes, described in Section I, might permit one to model an information processing system as employed in intelligence, upon the natural and specifically human prototype of information processing systems. This is somewhat far out, but let us imagine that we could build structural representatives in our intelligence systems of the mechanisms and processing by which man recognizes the essential variables in his environment. Those which are of strategic importance to his decision making process would guide his perceived behavior. At the present time, there is so little really known about the structure and functions of the visual, auditory, and other analyzer systems and the means by which sensed data becomes processed, stored and used in executing perceived behavior. We only know that the data comes through. None of the senders in the brain, associating points, neuronal loops, etc. which in brain field outdistances even the more overgrown bureaucratic interlaced intelligence organizations now maintained by the various national governments. Perhaps if the behavioral scientist could succeed in behavioral research into natural mechanisms for information collection process, transmission and storage, visual and institutional models could perhaps be realized in the concrete. Ultimately rational behavior based upon these information structures would become as perceptive and successful as man has become in his contest with nature over the millennia.

To my way of thinking the utilization of behavioral science and related technology to assessment and so on would be peanuts as contrasted to the possible goals described above.

Section III - The specific ways in which behavioral scientists could add or subtract from the total intelligence process could be derived from the paragraph above. I have attached copies of "The Behavioral Science Journal" and "The American Behavioral Scientist" which are really the only two 'behavioral journals' available. I am also sending you the "American Journal of Sociology," a more traditionally oriented journal but one as you will see, contains certain articles on path analysis on social systems and one on command and control. Your lecture which could be associated with sociology or political science, psychology, etc. demonstrates that the "behavioral sciences" are being pursued even where the attachment to behavior is not explicit.

Since I didn't have time to read Judy's typed manuscript nor my own "Albert's like" description, you may not make much sense out of this, but I hope you do, Call me when you get back.



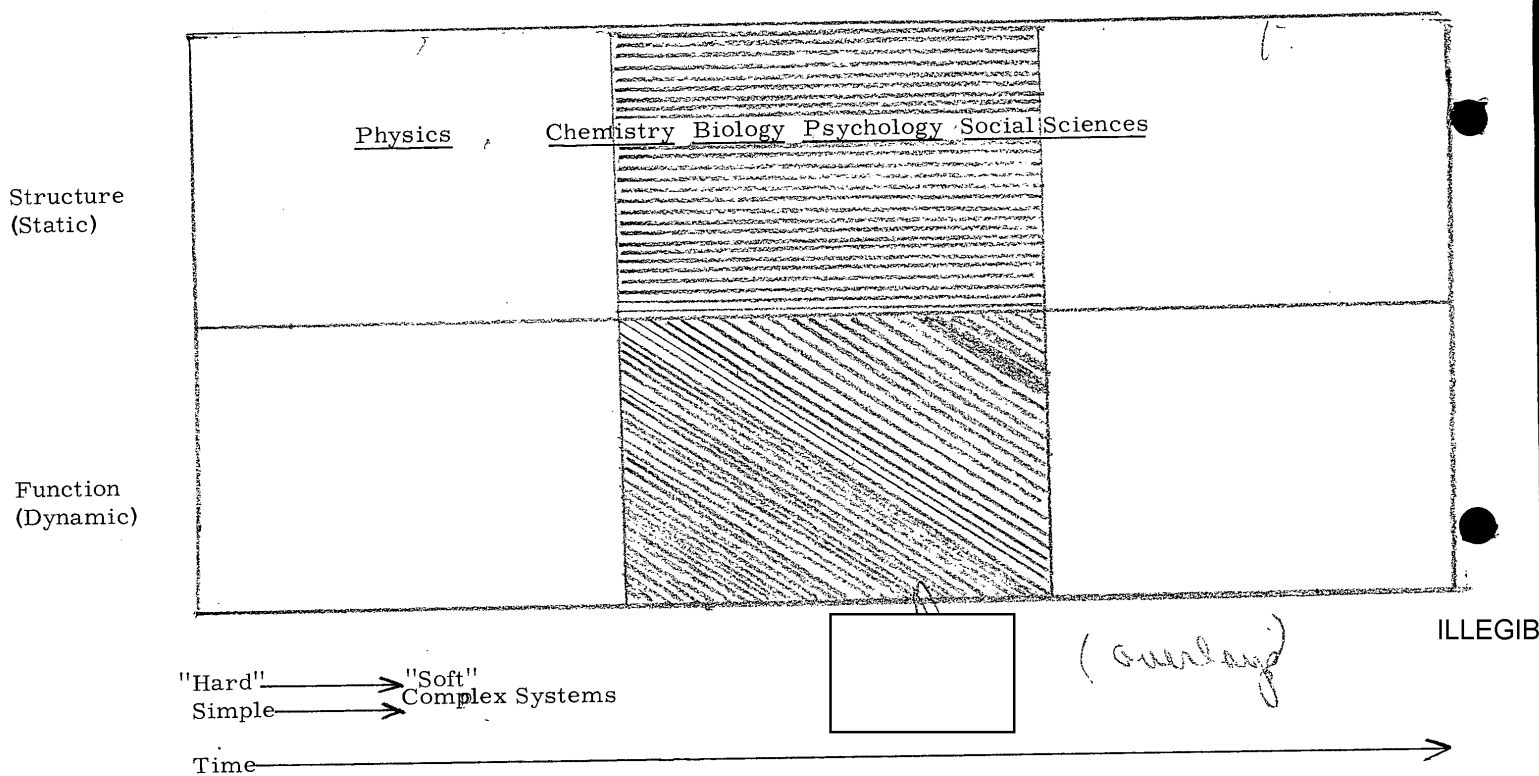
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SLIDE

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SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

(Excluding Economic and Political Sciences)



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SLIDE

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES TO INTELLIGENCE

- A. Provide techniques for direct and indirect assessment of individuals and small groups.
- B. Assist in determining whether behavior of national figures or groups is rational and consistent within the environmental background.
- C. Examine pathological behavior for possible relevance to future events.
- D. Apply methodology to intelligence analysis problems.
- E. Provide support to "visceral beliefs" of intelligence analysts without formal behavioral training.
- F. Act as a link with other disciplines in social sciences and identify means of applying new developments in the behavioral and social sciences to intelligence.

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

A science (as psychology, sociology, or anthropology) dealing with human action and aiming at the establishment of generalizations of man's behavior in society.

... Webster's Third New International Dict.

"Shall I refuse my dinner because I do not
fully understand the process of digestion?"

---Oliver Heaviside